

stuck to the inside wall of the nest. Three fire-flies had their heads and half their bodies buried into this mud. These had undoubtedly been caught by the mother bird and stuck into the mud to give illumination to the nest which they did, even when dead.

c/o NGWEDAUNG MINE SYNDICATE,  
BAWZAING,  
P.O. HEHO, S.S.S.,  
BURMA,  
October 14, 1952.

R. M. ALDWORTH

[We wrote to Mr. Aldworth asking him to confirm if the fire-flies embedded in the mud were dead or alive and we have received a reply which reads:—

'I would inform you that I found these fire-flies dead but the underside posterior portions were still emitting incandescent light.'

The emission of light in fire-flies and glow-worms has been known as a physiological process which can only occur while the animal is alive. The present observation is difficult to explain.—EDS.]

#### 6. ON THE RE-OCCURRENCE IN CEYLON OF BLYTH'S PIPIT—*ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS THERMOPHILUS* (JERDON)

Although a good lookout has been kept in recent years, the only record of the occurrence in Ceylon of Blyth's Pipit was Legge's reference to a single bird that he collected near Virgel on the coast of the Eastern Province in October (before the year 1880) and which he described in his 'Birds of Ceylon' on page 628 under the name of *Corydalla striolata*, the large Meadow-pipit.

On February 1st this year (1953) one was secured by Mr. E. C. Fernando Junior son of the late Taxidermist to the Colombo Museum, at Boralessgamuwa about 12 miles south of Colombo, on the west coast. This bird was sent to the Bird Room of the British Museum (Natural History) while I was in England on furlough, and I had the opportunity to examine and compare it with Indian specimens of the same species in the reserve collections of that institution. There is no doubt as to the identity of this specimen which constitutes an interesting record of the re-appearance of the species in Ceylon. It appears to be either a rare straggler or possibly an occasional winter visitor, associating with Richard's Pipit (*A. novaeseelandiae richardi*) a common winter immigrant on the pastures of the coastal areas during the period October to February. With regard to the collecting of this Pipit, I am informed that it was shot in the paddy fields near Kesbawa, about 3 miles inland from the coast. When first seen the bird rose straight up into the air, then glided downwards almost to the ground, then up again. This flight was repeated several times and Mr. Fernando, noting the peculiar behaviour and that the bird was slightly larger in size than